

Deo adjuvanti non timindin (With God's help, we need not fear)

THE DIXON BLUE LIGHT NEWS



Lt. George E. Dixon Camp #1962
Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV)

www.scvcamp1962.org

Editor: Johnny Kicklighter Email: Johnnywick@gmail.com



SEPTEMBER 2025



Save the Date
Cannon Shoot
5 October
Janice Beasley's

PROGRAM INFO FOR NEXT MTG, 5 OCTOBER 2025

PRESENTATION: Cannon Shoot

PRESENTER: Bob Herr

REFRESHMENTS: BBQ & Covered Dish Picnic



ANNOUNCEMENT

The Camp voted, to cancel the September 18th and October 16th meeting, and combine them into a meeting at the Cannon Shoot on 5 Oct. Details in the minutes.

NO SEPTEMBER MEETING

CAMP MISSION

The camp accepts its covenanted responsibility to maintain and preserve the Christian principles held by the Southern people that led them to their decision to defend the right of constitutional self-government. We strive to educate ourselves first and then the public to a fuller and more complete understanding of the true history of the period of the War Between the States. We seek to preserve the memory and honor of the noble Confederate soldiers, sailors, public servants, and loyal citizens.

CAMP MEMBERSHIP

Is available to all male (12 years or older) descendants of any veteran who served honorably in the Confederate military. Direct or collateral kinship to a qualifying veteran or civil servant must be documented for full membership. We will help with genealogical assistance for documentation. For those who have not yet proven their kinship or just have an active interest in what we are doing, we offer camp membership through our auxiliary, The Knights and Ladies of the Golden Circle.

WE CARE! PLEASE CALL JOHN OR MIKE AND KEEP US NEWS-INFORMED ... if you or a family member is ill, has an emergency, health or family issue, a family death, or needs assistance. Adjutant John McKee, 618-491-9472 Chaplain Mike Bickert, 618-972-8190



The Stone Mountain Commemorative Half Dollar was minted in 1925 to fund carving of Lee, Jackson, & Davis on the face of Stone Mountain, GA.
Details in the video below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YwiBog0DOKE>



**Don't Miss the
Cannon Shoot.
October 5
Home of Janice
Beasley**

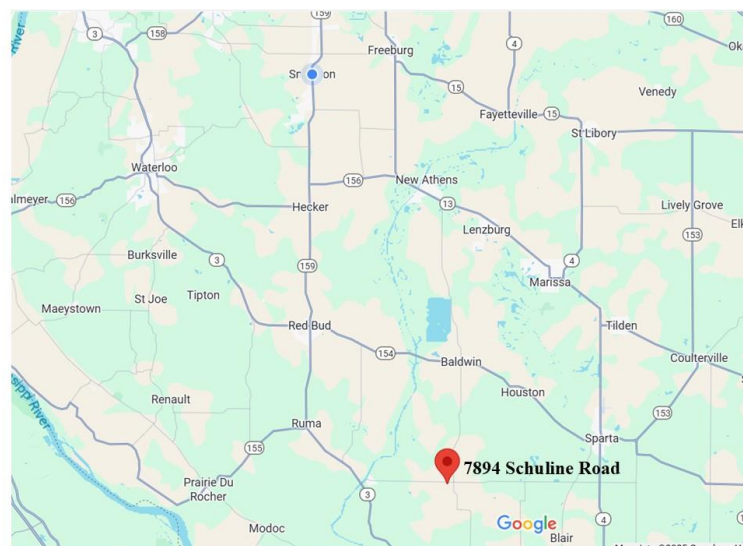


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CAMP DIXON MEETING MINUTES

The members and friends of the Lt. George E. Dixon Camp # 1962, S.C.V., conducted their monthly muster at 6:35 p.m. on 21 August 2025, at the Shiloh Assembly of God Church, Shiloh IL; this being the 8th Muster of the year.

1. Call to order – CC Stanton at 6:35 PM
2. Invocation – Chaplain Biekert
3. Pledge to U.S. Flag – CC Stanton
4. Salute to Confederate Flag – CC Stanton



GROUP PHOTO

(L-R)

Back row: Phil Tate, Dale Rice, Mike Biekert, John Stanton, Steve Wilson

Front row: Johnny Kicklighter, Janice Beasley, R. Lee, Bobb Herr

5. Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting as Presented in the August 2025 Edition of *The Blue Light News*.

Motion: Approved.

7. Treasurer's report: None.

8. Communications: None

9. Reports

a. Standing Committees: None. b. Special Committee. None

10. New Business:

a. None

11. Old Business: Janice Beasley is letting us converge on her farm and Bob Herr is bringing his Cannon for us to fire! There will be a potluck dinner after we hold a short Camp Meeting so, please bring a covered dish. Bob Herr is bringing the BBQ Pork! The Camp voted tonight to cancel the September 18th and October 16th meeting, to do this and combine them into a meeting at the event. This Event is for members and immediate family.

Janice's address is: 7894 Schuline Road, Walsh IL 62297. The driveway is somewhat hidden so approach slowly. Janice will place something at the entrance to help you see it. If anyone needs further directions to her house, email her at 5jbeaz@frontier.com

Motion to combine the September & October meetings into one meeting on 5 Oct: Johnny Kicklighter.
2nd: Bob Herr. Motion carried.

12. Blessing by Chaplain Biekert

13. Program: Johnny Kicklighter on Stone Mountain.

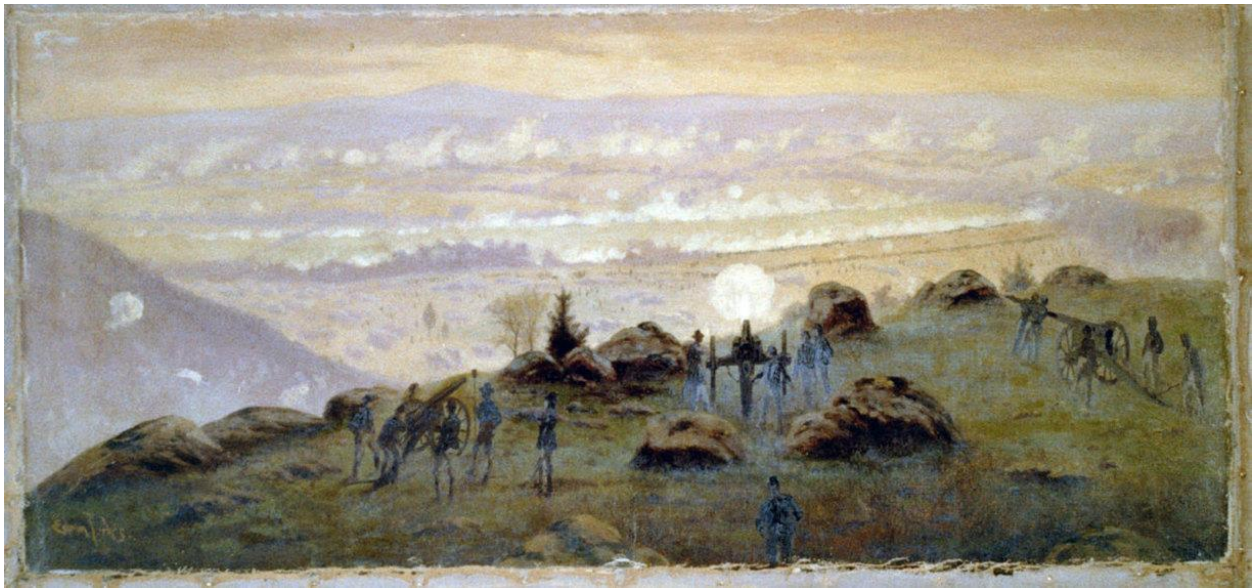
14. Next Meeting: 5 October 2025

15. Benediction by Chaplain Biekert

16. Adjournment at 8:00 PM



A Favorite Battlefield Spot: Gettysburg



View from the summit of Little Round Top at 7:30 p.m. on July 3rd, 1863

(Story written by Waite Rawls of the Blue Gray Society)

Like many other history buffs, I love to read books about the Civil War—the more the better. And when it comes to reading about the battles, I love the maps—the more the better. But there are things that happened back then that neither the books nor the maps can describe well—things that often established the tactical plan and things that changed the course of the battle. Oftentimes, things that the generals or their men could see or couldn't see determined the outcome in ways that books and maps can't capture. You need to go to the battlefield yourself, to see what they could see. These sight lines represent one of the great reasons we try to save the battlefields.

First, let me say that recent work at Gettysburg to cut many of the trees down at Devil's Den has been terrific. Now as then, from the top of Little Round Top, you can see the path of the onslaught of Benning's Brigade; and from below, you can see what those Georgia boys could see as they looked up at the rocky slope. But I think books, maps, and photographs can capture these views.



Little Round Top was the scene of intense fighting on July 2, 1863

But farther to the Union left, something happened that was probably more important than the fighting around Devil's Den. Joshua Chamberlain was deploying the 20th Maine as the extreme left regiment in the defenses of Little Round Top. He detached Company B and sent it out to his left front where they lay down behind a small, broken-down stone wall. The rest of his regiment refused its left flank and fought off several determined charges by Texans and Alabamians. At the critical point of the battle, with William Oates' 15th Alabama about to find and perhaps turn the left flank of the 20th Maine, the men from Company B rose and fired a volley into the rear of the Alabama boys, causing a panic in their overheated and dehydrated ranks as the supposed flankers found themselves flanked. The rest of the 20th Maine made their famous bayonet charge at exactly that moment, but the single volley from Company B had already turned the tide. Without that small company firing that small volley, Oates' men might indeed have turned the Union position and driven the men in blue off of Little Round Top.

Until recently, there was only a small sign pointing to an even smaller trail that led to the stone wall of Company B; and the NPS's recent work on Little Round Top has not made the position more prominent. But when you go to this spot, you can sense why the Alabamians thought their attack had failed, leading to their retreat. Only then can you understand why Longstreet's assault failed on the second day. It is one of the most important spots in the whole three days, yet it remains off the beaten path and is barely marked. And the books, photographs, and maps cannot capture its importance the way a visit to the spot can.
(Courtesy blueandgrayeducation.org)

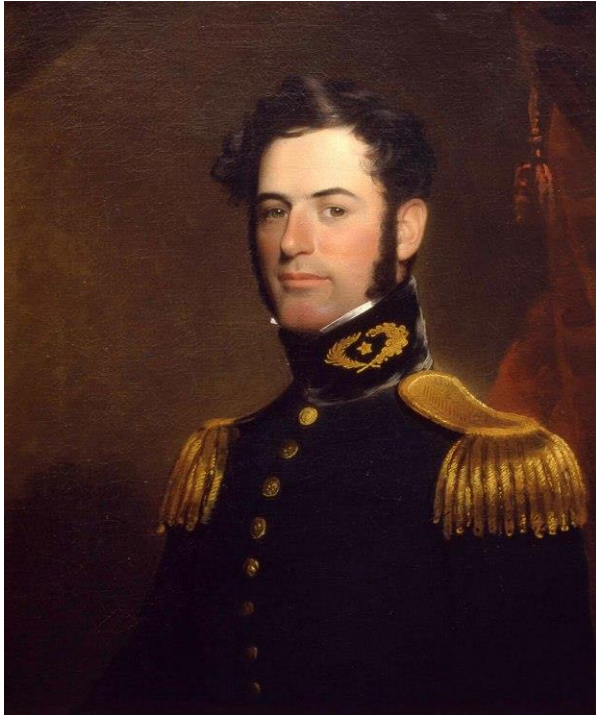
Jefferson Davis's Son Killed at Confederate White House

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CK2jIXwm2wM>



Robert E. Lee and His Thoughts About Secession

Upon George Washington Parke Custis' death in 1857, he left the now-famous Arlington (Virginia) estate to his daughter, Mary Custis Lee for her lifetime. Robert E. Lee, her husband, was never an owner of the property. The estate needed much repair and reorganization, and (then Lieutenant Colonel) Lee, as executor of Custis' complicated will, took a leave of absence from the Army until 1860 to begin the necessary agricultural and financial improvements.



Robert E. Lee In 1838
Lieutenant of Engineers, U.S. Army



Mary Anna Custis Lee: 1830

It was during his stay at Arlington that Lee had been called upon by the U.S. Government to put down the failed slave revolt, led by John Brown, in Harpers Ferry in October 1859. In February 1860, Lee was ordered to return to Texas, where he had been performing his Army duties since 1855.

In January 1861, Lee wrote:

"The South, in my opinion, has been aggrieved by the acts of the North, as you say. I feel the aggression and am willing to take every proper step for redress. It is the principle I contend for, not individual or private gain. As an American citizen, I take great pride in my country, her prosperity, and institutions, and would defend any State if her rights were invaded. But I can anticipate no greater calamity for the country than dissolution of the Union. It would be an accumulation of all the evils we complain of, and I am willing to sacrifice everything but honor for its preservation. I hope therefore that all constitutional means will be exhausted before there is recourse to force. Secession is nothing but revolution. The framers of our Constitution never exhausted so much labor, wisdom, and forbearance in its formation, and surrounded it with so many guards and securities, if it was intended to be broken by every member of the Confederacy at will. It was intended for 'perpetual union' so expressed in the preamble, and for the establishment of a government, not a compact, which can only be dissolved by revolution, or the consent of all the people in convention assembled. It is idle to talk of secession. Anarchy would have been established, and not a government by Washington, Hamilton, Jefferson, Madison, and the other patriots of the Revolution. Still, a Union that can only be maintained by swords and bayonets, and in which strife and civil war are to take the place of brotherly love and kindness, has no charm for me. I shall

mourn for my country and for the welfare and progress of mankind. If the Union is dissolved, and the Government disrupted, I shall return to my native State and share the miseries of my people and save in defence will draw my sword on none."

Arlington, Washington City P.O.
20 April 1861

Hon^{ble} Simon Cameron
Sec^y of War

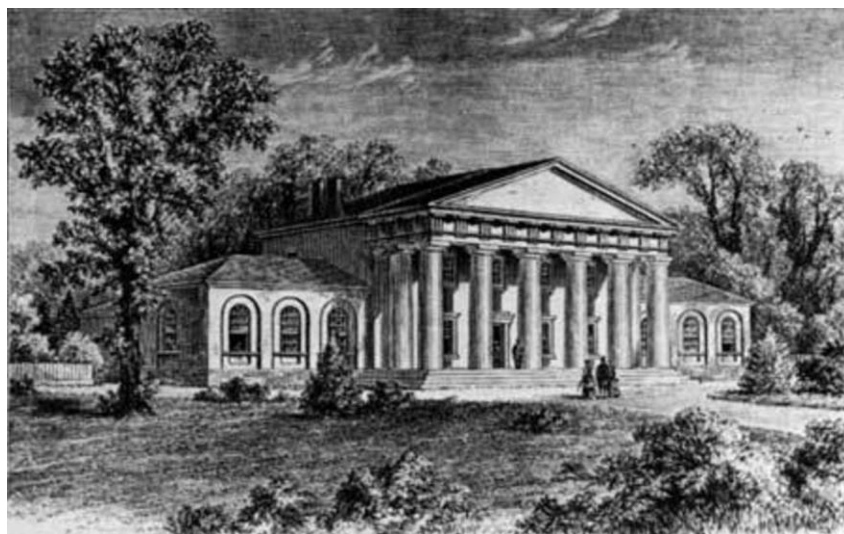
Sir

I have the honour to tender
the resignation of my Commission as Colonel
of the 1st Reg^t of Cavalry
Very res^t your obtst

R. E. Lee
Col 1st Cav^y

Lee's Resignation Letter from the U.S. Army, April 20, 1861

By discretion and silence, he avoided a commitment that might have had a momentous effect on his career and the whole course of the war. What might have happened if he had been in command of the Department of Texas instead of Gen. David E. Twiggs when the Texans demanded the surrender of Federal property that February? Twiggs had replaced Lee as commander in December 1860. Twiggs, originally from Georgia and a proponent of states' rights, surrendered all U.S. Army arms and property to the Texas secessionists. Twiggs was dismissed from the U.S. Army for "treachery to the flag of his country."



Arlington House, published in 1875

Lee's own state of Virginia had not succeeded; he would have had no hesitancy in obeying the orders of the War Department and would have refused to surrender government property. Would he then have clashed with the Texans? Would he have been the first to face secession fire? Very nearly the Civil War began in February in Texas, instead of April in South Carolina, with Lt. Col. Robert E. Lee playing the part of Fort Sumter's Maj. Robert Anderson. (Courtesy blueandgrayeducation.org)



The legacy of the Grand Army of the Republic endures



John J. Dunphy

GUEST COLUMNIST

In August 2020, I wrote for The Telegraph a column titled "Grand Army of the Republic's legacy lives on." It dealt with the Parrott Rifle, sometimes

called "the cemetery cannon," which sits in Alton Cemetery. The inscription on the base of this muzzle-loading artillery piece reads "THE UNION DEAD." A separate inscription reads "1890," which was the year this monument was installed.

There were a great many Union dead to commemorate. At least 110,000 Union military personnel died in battle during the Civil War. Modern medical science was in its infancy, so it shouldn't surprise us that disease combined with accidents claimed another 230,000 lives. As many as 30,000 Union soldiers perished in Confederate prisons. That brings the final count to 370,000.

The Parrott Rifle/cemetery cannon was installed in Alton Cemetery by local members of the Grand Army of the Republic. Founded in Springfield, Illinois, in 1866, the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) was a national organization for Civil War Union veterans. As I note in my book "Abolitionism and the Civil War in Southwestern Illinois," the GAR played a crucial role in the founding of Memorial Day.



John Dunphy/For The Telegraph

The cornerstone of the building at 2334 State Street in Alton marks it as a memorial to the Grand Army of the Republic, a fraternal organization of Civil War Union veterans.

organization held its first meeting on June 3, 1885.

The website says its original name was the National Alliance Daughters of Veterans and that it was "endorsed by the Grand Army of the Republic at the 34th Annual Encampment held in Chicago, Illinois in 1900."

In 1944, the organization adopted its current name, Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, 1861-1865.

"Local groups, called Tents, are named for Army Nurses who served in the Civil War or any loyal woman of the Civil War era whose patriotic deeds during the years 1861-1865 were recorded," states DUVCW.org. Local GAR groups were called posts.

The Telegraph carried an article titled "Corner Stone Laying for D. of V. Home" in its Nov. 29, 1927, edition. The article makes clear that the Alton tent of the DUV intended the building to serve a dual purpose.

Although open to all Union veterans of the war, the GAR was especially popular with Republican veterans since the GOP was so closely associated with the Union cause. The GAR was a pillar of the Republican Party for decades. Its membership peaked at approximately 410,000 in 1890. It was finally dissolved on August 2, 1956, with the death of Albert Woolson, its last member.

I'm now 71 and, for all my life, thought this Parrott Rifle was the only tangible memento left by the GAR in the city of Alton.

I recently learned that I was mistaken.

A friend informed me that the cornerstone of an apartment building located at 2334 State Street bears the initials G.A.R. followed by "Memorial 1928." My interest in this building was further whetted by the information that above its doorway were the letters: "D of (missing letter) V." I knew the missing letter was a "U," and DUV is an acronym for Daughters of Union Veterans.

The DUV is still very much in existence and maintains a website.

"Our organization was organized on May 30, 1885 by Olive Howard, Harriet Knapp, Eva Merwin, Frank Merwin, and Bertha Martin," visitors to the site are informed.

May 30 was the original date of Memorial Day, which was often called Decoration Day. The

word "Memorial" on the cornerstone suggests, it would be "a memorial to Union veterans of the Civil War." A bit later, we learn that "The Daughters are having the memorial building erected as a meeting place for the G.A.R. and all other organizations growing out of this body of Union defenders."

Unfortunately, our community's GAR membership was rapidly dying off.

The March 6, 1952, edition of The Telegraph carried an article noting that the building had been purchased by two local businessmen who intended to convert 2334 State into apartments. The article also informs us that the DUV sold the building about 12 years ago to the Plumbers and Steamfitters Local Union 553. The union rented out the building to various community groups, including other unions, barbershop singers, and wedding parties.

Although its connection to the DUV was severed approximately 85 years ago, 2334 State Street remains a vital part of Alton's Civil War Union heritage and must be preserved. By recognizing its historical significance, we honor our region's men who helped to crush the Southern rebellion and banish slavery from our land.

John J. Dunphy is a writer and poet. He owns The Second Reading Book Shop in Alton.

Article was published in *The Telegraph*.
Submitted by Janice Beasley

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER

5 1:00 CAMP MEETING
11 General Palaski Day
14 Columbus Day
16 Boss's Day
18 Alaska Day
31 Halloween

NOVEMBER

3 Daylight Saving Time Ends
5 Election Day
11 Veterans Day
20 6:30 CAMP MEETING
28 Thanksgiving
29 Black Friday

DECEMBER

7 Pearl Harbor Day
15 Bill of Rights Day
17 Wright Brothers Day
18 CAMP MEETING
21 Winter Solstice – 9:27 PM
25 Christmas Day



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

6 Walter Harris (Glen Carbon, IL)
7 Gordon Hayes (Granite City, IL)
16 Dwight Moore (The Villages, FL)
30 John Stanton (Godfrey, IL)



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